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DCI/ICS 83-4416
11 July 1983

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MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Central Intelligence

VIA: Deputy Director of Central Intelligence
Director, Intelligence Community Staff

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FROM: Executive Secretary
Executive Steering Group for Strategic Planning

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SUBJECT: 1985 Intelligence Capabilities Study: A Review

1. Action Requested: That you review the attached study of Intelligence Community performance in addressing the challenges identified in the 1985 Intelligence Capabilities Study, and approve its forwarding to the members of the National Foreign Intelligence Council.

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2. Background: In a 4 March 1981 memorandum to the DCI, the Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs requested an estimate of the intelligence capabilities that the US Government would need to acquire by 1985; this estimate would serve as a blueprint for incremental augmentation of currently-programmed intelligence capabilities and as a guide for outyear funding. A Staff Working Group was assembled in June 1981 to develop the estimate, and the final report, entitled 1985 Intelligence Capabilities Study, was forwarded in October 1981 to the Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs. The Study was presented to the President in late December 1981, and the overall investment strategy was approved in principle.

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3. On 9 October 1982, the Deputy Director of Central Intelligence notified all departments and agencies involved in the National Foreign Intelligence Program that the Director of Central Intelligence had instructed that the study be updated under the aegis of the Executive Steering Group for Strategic Planning.

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4. On 23 November 1982, the Executive Steering Group approved a plan to: (1) revalidate the 1985 Study conclusions and recommendations; (2) verify the applicability of the Study to Community-wide planning; (3) revalidate the 13 original challenges and identify any new challenges; (4) assess the current quality of the national intelligence process; (5) define the concept for long-range planning at the Community level; and (6) conclude the use of the 1985 Study as a cyclical planning document.

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5. Review Process: The Working Group for Strategic Planning, representing agencies and departments which constitute the National Foreign Intelligence Council (with the exception of the US Army and Marine Corps) was established to support the Executive Steering Group in updating the 1985 Intelligence Capabilities Study and conducting an in-depth examination of selected factors related to Community strategic planning. The Group met on 1 December 1982, and several times thereafter to discuss the review and update of the Capabilities Study, to review the Intelligence Community's current planning process, and to consider a general concept for future Intelligence Community long-range planning. The review achieved all but one of the goals established by the Executive Steering Group; the consensus of the Working Group was to limit consideration to the original 13 challenges as stated rather than to update or determine if new challenges had arisen during the intervening year. [REDACTED]

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6. The Working Group recognized that the original purpose of the 1985 Intelligence Capabilities Study was primarily that of a management tool rather than a vehicle for addressing future long-range planning issues. The consensus was to conclude the use of the 1985 Study as a planning document, per se, with this review and with the issuance of an appropriate strategic planning document in October 1983. [REDACTED]

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APPROVED:

/s/ William J. CaseyDirector of Central Intelligence21 JUL 1983Date

DISAPPROVED:

Director of Central IntelligenceDate

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